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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, enable us to love You with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Give us humility so we can see Your divine image in the people around us and serve You by serving them. Let this love expressed in service transform our Senate, Nation, and world.

Lord, bless our Senators. Make them kind in thought, gentle in speech, generous in actions. Lift their lives from the battle zone of combative words to a caring community of integrity, respect, and civility. Teach them that it is better to give than to receive, that it is better to serve than to be served. Lead them to a humility that speaks great things for others.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will conduct morning business, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two sides, with the majority controlling the first half hour.

We are working hard to come up with an agreement on how we can dispose of the Biden and Kyl amendments. We were very close to being there several times yesterday, but we are still not there. Once we reach an agreement, Members will be notified of when the votes will occur.

The Senate has received, it is my understanding, the children's health legislation. We are going to begin the process of getting to a point where this matter will be considered and disposed of in the Senate and sent to the President.

Other matters which need to be considered this week are a continuing resolution and debt limit. I have been in contact with my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Kentucky, to see how we are going to work our way through this. Members will be apprised of schedule issues throughout the day.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

MOVING FORWARD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me just say I will be working with the majority leader to accomplish the goals he just laid out. I think there is broad bipartisan support for going forward as he suggested.

BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there is disheartening news coming out of Burma this morning. Last night, following yet another day of massive peaceful protests demanding political reform in Burma, the repressive Burmese regime imposed a nighttime curfew and banned all public gatherings of more than five people. Despite this bra-

zen effort to muzzle freedom of expression, reports indicate that thousands of Buddhist monks and other protestors courageously defied the prohibition on public assembly and marched again in Rangoon. In response, reports indicate that the security forces of the State Peace and Development Council responded with typical brutality, beating and arresting scores of these brave protestors. It was reported that one person was shot to death and five received gunshot injuries.

Back in 1988, the regime responded to similar peaceful protests by massacring thousands of its own citizens. But the Burmese regime should know that things have changed in the intervening years. Modern technology has permitted photographs of those heroic protestors to be transmitted via the Internet around the entire world. Whereas before the news could be easily muzzled by the junta, today that is no longer the case. The world is watching, and any brutal steps taken in Rangoon are instantly made known in places such as New York, New Delhi, and Beijing. These moving images of heroism have certainly reached us here in Washington, DC.

As I have said before to the regime in Burma, we are watching you. To the people of Burma, we stand with you.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, would the Republican leader yield for a question?

I want to ask a question based on the Senator's statement. First, I commend the Republican leader for his statement on the situation in Burma. It is my understanding now that we anticipate this military junta is likely to engage in repressive tactics against the Buddhist monks and the people of this country. I thank the leader for his statements because I think they validate our mutual concern that first an

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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